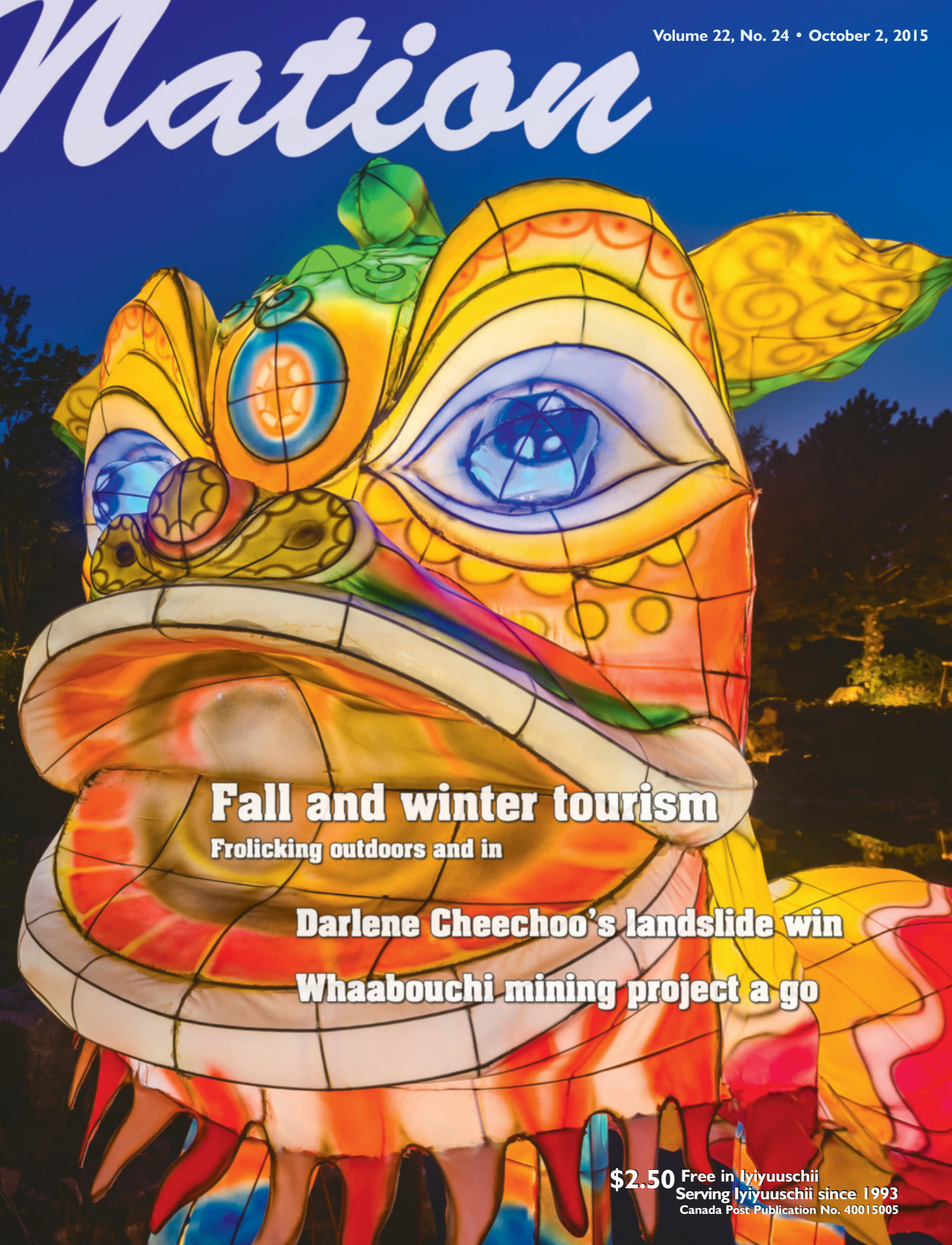


Nation



Volume 22, No. 24 • October 2, 2015

Fall and winter tourism

Frolicking outdoors and in

Darlene Cheechoo's landslide win

Whaabouchi mining project a go

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Where are you from?

Why should we send you to the YES 2015?
(One paragraph)

Simulation: If you were given \$50,000 to start a business, which business would you start and why?

Must answer: The 5 W's and How?
(1 1/2 page to 2 pages)

Deadline to submit: November 6, 2015

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Check out our websites for more information about the registration form & essay criteria.
www.eeyoueconomicgroup.ca
www.creeco.ca



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For more info on YES 2015 visit:
youngentrepreneurssymposium.ca

Five jobs for the next government

by Lyle Stewart

Too much of the time, election-minded editorials denounce what we see as failings in our political leaders. Only rarely do we editorialists express what we'd like to see our leaders striving for. This is one attempt to right the balance.

Job #1 – Imagine a federal government that actually treats Canadians with respect. By respect, I mean as adults fully capable of understanding the issues they face. That means being truly open and transparent with the information the government uses to make decisions that affect us all. In fact, it would be nice if those in government acted as self-respecting adults rather than a gang of sniggering playground bullies. Instead, the last decade has witnessed the development of a secrecy-obsessed government that attacks the weak and sucks up to the strong. The damage to our democracy has been immense.

Job #2 – Imagine a federal government that tried to bring people together, instead of dividing them. Wouldn't it be nice to see leadership that respected our differences, diverse communities and lifestyles instead of using the variety of humankind as a weapon to fire up people with hate in their hearts? This country is devolving into a bunker mentality, with people judging others on their appearance or background, all with the rabid encouragement of the Harper Conservatives. A huge job for the next government will be to undo this damage and help Canada evolve into a country of tolerance, acceptance and solidarity.

Job #3 – Imagine a federal government that saw the development of people, rather than foreign profits, as a priority. The vast majority of our non-renewable resource wealth flows straight out of Canada – into the pockets of multinationals, tax havens or into the bank accounts of the People's Republic of China. Only in underdevel-

oped Third World countries do we see these levels of economic giveaways. We need a made-in-Canada resource policy that keeps much more of this wealth in Canada, for the benefit of Canadians. As much of that wealth comes from First Nations territory, the social and economic benefits of their ancestral lands should at least be seen as a tool to bring standards of living and services in Native communities up to the national levels.

Job #4 – Imagine a federal government that did not see the environment or those who wish to preserve it as enemies. A priority for the next occupant of 24 Sussex Drive must be to re-establish protection for our waterways across the country – something disastrously eliminated by the Conservatives. We finally need to accept that climate change is a clear and present danger, and start pulling our weight as a nation-state. The natural splendour of Canada is one thing that truly sets us apart from the rest of the world, but we too often act like entitled kids in a candy store than as wise stewards of an incredible, yet fragile, land.

Job #5 – Reclaim an international place of pride among the community of nations. Canada's reputation has suffered terribly over the past decade. We have become an international pariah, seen as a belligerent rogue state that takes sides in international conflicts based on low – and local – political calculations rather than the principles that we used to espouse and fight for. This job will be long. Convincing the world that we are not war-mongering, treaty-busting racists will take concrete action and perseverance. We've never been perfect, but our contributions to the world community were, in the past, admired. We can regain that reputation.

All of these jobs can only be achieved by voting for a new government. Please vote on October 19.

Contents

EDITORIAL

Five jobs for the next government 3

REZ NOTES

Mysterious mushrooms! 4

NEWS

Darlene Cheechoo wins 5

The Roundhouse Café 7

FEATURES

Fall and winter tourism guide 10

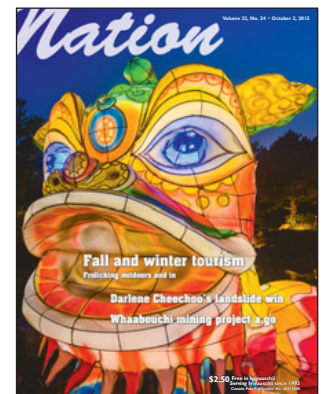
Whabouchi mining project a go 20

McGill University's annual powwow 23

Wemindji unites against suicide 25

UTNS

The Cree connection on Mars 26



Montreal's Gardens of Light festival

photo by
Claude Lafond

Mysterious mushrooms

by Sonny Orr



A mysterious message arrived via Facebook the other day. It stated that I was to receive a package on the plane later that day. I was about to leave on a hunting trip and had just put a caribou neck in the oven for a 10-hour stint. Oh well, wait for the package, I thought. Then I get another message saying the package contains mushrooms from my brother. Mushrooms?

Okay, I'll wait for them. I know that when my brother sends me things, it's a bit like a blue moon occurring on Christmas Day. However, anxious to head out on the land, I ready myself for the hunt and send someone else to the airport to find my mysterious mushrooms.

When they return, I see my package is loosely packed with butcher's wrap. I pull out a humungous mushroom. A big "Waaaa!" resounds around the room... I think this would go well with my neck-bone meat. I put them aside, and take off north.

The hunt was quiet, lots of wind and nothing flying around, so my thoughts were on the mushrooms. I recognized those mushrooms from somewhere... then I remembered.

My close buddy and I were out partridge hunting in a jack-pine forest on a late fall day. The weather was perfect and a large partridge sat on the very top of the tree. We had been at it for about two hours, shooting partridge with the light .22 calibre Browning I liked to use on these occasions. It was a beautiful early evening, the white caribou moss and towering jack pine – a great place to live if you

were an animal. Then we came to a clearing with a lone tree standing in the middle.

The tree looked a little different, much thicker and whiter than the others. We walked up closer to check it out. Then we both exclaimed, "Look at the mushrooms!"

The tree was adorned with mushrooms. Every branch held hundreds of mushrooms, neatly tucked in almost every twig. We laughed and called it a Christmas tree. Squirrels had used the tree as a drying centre, to preserve the mushrooms for the long winter ahead. We took down a mushroom to look at. It was similar to the mushroom I had held in my kitchen. Ahh, a squirrel's choice in mushrooms!

Later, when the sun rapidly dropped, I headed home to my neck bone. It was succulently roasted so I rested the meat a bit and prepared the frying pan for some mushrooms. A nice slab of butter, salt and flaky black pepper sat sizzling as I laid down the large mushroom steaks. First sweet, then the familiar smoky smell of mushrooms filled my kitchen. I like my mushrooms fried well, like a French fry. This sturdy mushroom didn't wilt in the heat of the pan.

Finally, the pairing of the roast caribou with mushroom steak hit my taste buds. The meat and mushroom disappear quickly as my mouth raved. I message my brother and ask him what they were called.

They were Matsutake mushrooms. Now I know why the Japanese treat this super tasty mushroom as the food of a demi-god. It is more of a gift from the gods to the squirrels, I think.

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Waskaganish gets first female chief

Darlene Cheechoo wins in a landslide

by Jesse Staniforth

Darlene Cheechoo, elected Chief of Waskaganish August 26 with close to 80% of the vote, is the first woman to lead her community. But she's no stranger to leadership: she was a commissioner to the Cree School Board and a representative on the Board of Compensation for the community before she becoming Chairperson of the BoC and President of Creeco.

"I've always had a heart for our people, and for service," she told the Nation. "I was always encouraged by my parents to give back. When I decided to go out for schooling, they supported me 100%. Part of that was that they wanted me to return home to help the people."

She went first to Ottawa, then to Queen's University in Kingston before getting a Master's degree in Los Angeles. She then returned home to the James Bay region, where she began her rise to prominence. Her next challenge is guiding the development of Waskaganish over the next four years.

"I'm no different than any other chief, and our communities have the same struggles," she said. "For some, it's more evident than others, because of our population. Housing is always an issue. Social issues are very key as well. There's such a broad range of issues that I want to deal with, but I think every other community faces these as well. And not only First Nation communities have social issues."

Non-Native communities, she noted, often have large populations distributed over a vast geographical

area, making their social problems less easy to notice.

However, in Eeyou Istchee, she said, "We're very linked: if one of our community members is not doing well, there's a ripple effect. So if we address some of our social issues and decrease that negative ripple effect, my hope is our people will become stronger, and we will be united in our efforts and press forward in making our community a great place to live. I think it will increase our quality of life here."

Another ripple effect she hopes to set off is encouraging the community's economy in a way that will create decent and lasting jobs.

"An issue there is building capacity," noted Cheechoo. "If we're going to have a good economy and create jobs, our young people need to have the capacity to fill those jobs. That's very important."

That's why she hopes to encourage young people throughout her mandate to prepare themselves to take on leadership roles.

"Should I not be successful years down the road," she said, "then someone else can take over the mantle. I want to ensure young people have the skills, knowledge, and experience to do so. When I'm an old lady, I know that I can have full faith and confidence in our young people to deliver services and provide leadership – to take care of our issues in our communities."

Cheechoo emphasized her optimism for the future of Waskaganish, which she noted is a very historical community, having made the first

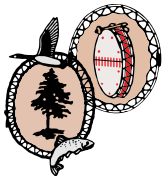


Darlene Cheechoo, Chief of Waskaganish

contact with European sailors centuries ago.

"Even before the election process, I felt a peace and a calm. I believe that our people are hopeful, and I'm hopeful and grateful for our future. I'm very positive. I think when your leadership has positive attitudes, our people can sense it." She acknowledged her predecessors on council, saying that they have delivered Waskaganish to its present-day position.

"What I want to emphasize," she concluded, "is how I would like our people to be strong and united. I would love our Nation to be prosperous and self-reliant. I want to see that our people are being a blessing to each other, and to others – our brothers and sisters in other Eeyou Istchee communities and other First Nations. Also to the province, to our nation, and internationally. I'm not limiting the scope in which we would like to work."



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The heart of a new Cabot Square

The Roundhouse Café is a warm place for Indigenous homeless in Montreal

by Jesse Staniforth

Montreal's Cabot Square stands at the corner of St. Catherine and Atwater streets, a gateway between the noise and chaos of the grimy downtown to the east, and the wealthy tree-lined streets of Westmount in the west. For decades, the park has been full of homeless people, many of them Inuit or First Nations. But after a long facelift, the park now boasts something entirely new: the Roundhouse Café, an Aboriginal snack bar that stands to bring the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities together at that literal crossroads.

"At one time this place was dangerous," manager Al Harrington recalled in an interview with the Nation. Harrington is Ojibway from Shoal Lake, but has lived in Kanesatake for nine years, during which time he worked as an outreach worker for the Friendship Centre. "Even when I was on street patrol, we used to come around this area. It was pretty dark with the trees, coming in here."

Over the last year, the Cabot Square project has completely redesigned the park, which was often full of people reclining under trees drinking wine or large bottles of cheap, high-alcohol beer. For homeless advocates, the park was certainly imperfect, but at least it was a place for homeless people to congregate and meet one another. Some feared the redevelopment would force them out, leaving one less place where homeless people could go.

"That was one of the biggest initiatives in the Cabot Square project; they wanted not to kick the people

out, because they're just going to move on to somewhere else," Harrington explained. "I know at one time the problem was they wanted to kick them out, and they started migrating toward Westmount. Westmounters started seeing Inuit in the park, and they started making complaints."

Harrington and fellow Friendship Centre outreach worker Joey Saganash sat down with Westmount officials to try to explain the situation and its ramifications. Those discussions occurred at the beginning of a long chain of events, the end of which is the current Roundhouse, which employs Indigenous people who have been on the street themselves. As the program was being developed by the Cabot Square Project in partnership with L'itinéraire (a magazine sold by homeless people and those who have been on the street), planners asked Harrington to manage the café because he had experience running a restaurant in Kanesatake.

"I thought the people they selected were good," Harrington said, noting that the café needs to serve both the homeless in the park and those venturing into the newly tidied square from the rich neighbourhood to the west. Behind him, worker Shirley DeWind worked constantly, serving customers, making coffee and tidying counters.

"Shirley and Brandon [Perreault], they've been there and done that," Harrington said. "They've been in that situation and they're here to change their lives around and get that second chance, getting experience



Shirley DeWind and Al Harrington

on the job in customer service and setting an example for the ones out there."

Setting an example is part of the idea, Harrington said. The Roundhouse presents non-Indigenous locals with homes the opportunity to interact with and build friendships with Indigenous people who have been on the street.

"Our customers and the residents love the place, because they feel a sense of coming together," he said. "They feel safer and they love the park. They're also getting educated by our staff and by the outreach workers in the back that homelessness will always be a problem, and it's never going to go away. But if we can make another person's life a little bit better, we should try."

In Ojibway culture, Harrington explained, a Roundhouse plays a role

similar to the Longhouse – it is a gathering place in which all are welcome, where the community can meet, eat and talk together. The Roundhouse café is occupied in a small almost-round building and serves classic Native fare like bannock and strawberry drink alongside coffee, soup, chili and the only scone-dogs in Montreal. It boasts a book exchange, and encourages readers to take or leave a book, either for the afternoon or forever.

But most notable among the café's developments is the "Pay it Forward" board, allowing diners to pay extra to put up a free cup of coffee or plate of bannock or chili for someone who can't afford it to enjoy later on.

"When clients see us do that, and they see that connection, it warms their hearts too," Harrington said. "That's what really makes this place special. We're all people. We all still need to have that caring sense. We're building bridges here. We're getting people coming up every day, many of them not even buying something for themselves, but just putting something on the Pay it Forward."

Harrington's contract is only a year long, and he doesn't know whether it will be renewed once the café is up and running.



"A lot of people are saying, 'It won't be the same if you leave,'" he explained. "I say, 'It will be. You guys started it.' It's a community place where staff is going to come and go, but the heart of the building is the way you guys made it, and it'll always be like that. If I'm not here, I'll come and visit and support it. But the Pay it Forward, the community created that together. The staff will always be smiling and happy and willing to go the extra mile."

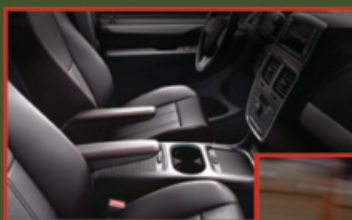


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Body of First Nations woman found near Amos

Police are investigating the death of a 20-year-old Cree woman near Amos, but the nature of the incident remains unclear.

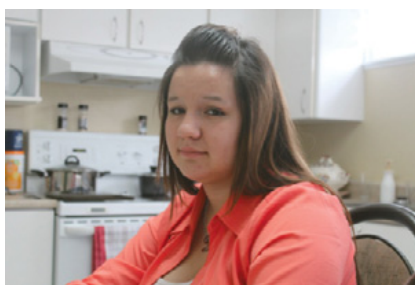
The body of Cindy Trapper Hamel-Robert was discovered at kilometre 82 of Route 109 near Saint-Dominique-du-Rosaire, in the early morning hours of September 5. Hamel-Robert had been a passenger travelling in a car with two friends. The driver of that car was Gordon Ruperthouse, 42.

"It appears that, for reasons unknown, Ms. Hamel opened the door and threw herself from the vehicle," said Sergeant Benoît Coutu of the Sûreté du Québec. "We don't know the circumstances leading up to that moment, and our investigation is still ongoing."

Police could not confirm whether or not any type of physical altercation occurred between Ruperthouse and Hamel-Roberts prior to her exiting the vehicle, but they do believe that the two engaged in a verbal disagreement.

Additionally, Ruperthouse did not stop the vehicle when Hamel-Robert fell out.

"He did not assist the woman and our investigation leads us to believe



Cindy Trapper Hamel-Robert

that there were suspicious events that occurred prior to the incident," Coutu told the Nation.

Sûreté du Québec officers arrested Ruperthouse the next day on charges of driving under the influence, dangerous driving and failure to stop at the scene of a fatal accident. They would not reveal the identity of the car's second passenger.

Hamel-Robert lived in Amos and was the daughter of Fred Robert, a member of the Washaw Sibi community, and Lyne Hamel. She also leaves behind siblings Christopher and Karolann.

Petition launched to protect Broadback

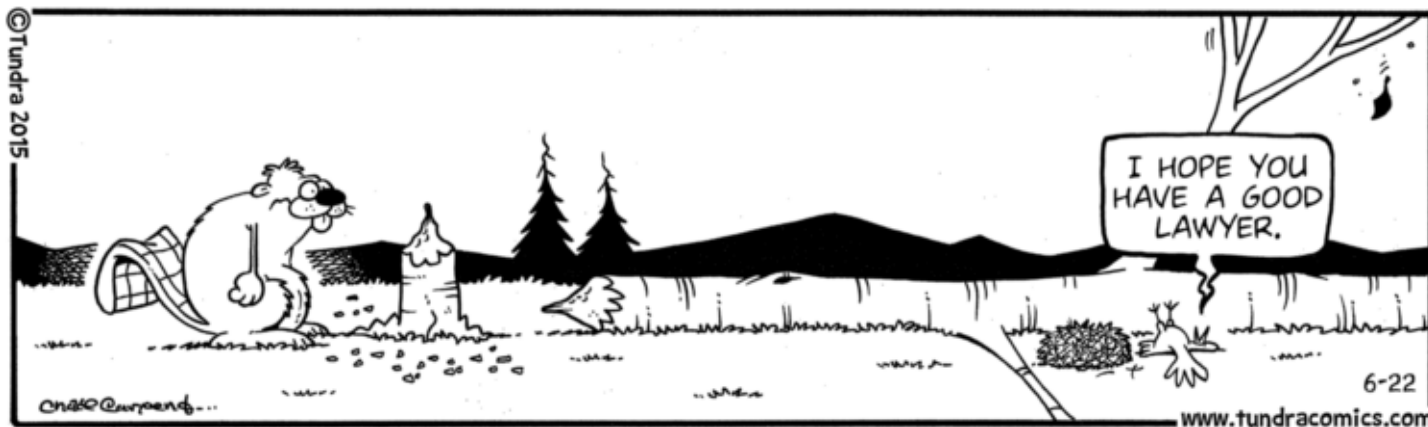
The Cree First Nation of Waswanipi has teamed up with Greenpeace to launch a petition calling upon the Quebec government to protect the last remaining forest in the Broadback River Valley.

Greenpeace created a website (www.savethebroadback.ca) to promote the conservation effort on a global scale. The petition aims to bolster the ongoing efforts of Waswanipi and the Cree Nation to have the Broadback, one of the last remaining untouched forests in Quebec, designated as protected territory.

"The Broadback isn't for sale, it's up for protection," said Waswanipi Deputy Chief Mandy Gull in a press release. In a video on the Greenpeace petition website, Chief Marcel Happyjack stated, "That's our home and we'll do anything we can to protect it."

Satellite imagery shows that 90% of Waswanipi's ancestral lands have been affected by the forest industry, directly impacting traditional Cree activities on the land. The Broadback region is also home to a number of plants and animals that play a significant role in Eeyou Istchee, including the endangered woodland caribou. Waswanipi hopes that the provincial government will step in to prevent further extension of logging and roads into the last remaining 10% of their Broadback territory.

"What we are denouncing...is not the actual forest industry, it is the logging operations intended to take place in one of our last pristine forests, which at this time are still not protected," said Happyjack.



FROLICKING OUTDOORS & IN

A guide to some of Quebec's finest fall and winter events

by Amy German

While summer seemed reluctant to leave during a beautiful month of September, colder weather is not far away so here is our annual tip sheet for fall and winter fun.

There is little doubt that most Crees will say the best things about the return of cold weather are hockey or hunting. But for those times when you and the family want to get away for some festival fun, catch some top-notch entertainment or find out what will be happening while you are down south on business, here are several ideas.



photo: Claude Lafondit

Special events, spectacular shows in Montreal

Gardens of Light festival

If you're looking for something serene yet spectacular in Montreal, check out the Botanical Garden. It puts on one of its most brilliant events of the year with its Gardens of Light festival that runs from September 4 to November 1.

Hosted in the Chinese and Japanese gardens, come dusk the waterfalls, decorative boats, stones and other displays take on new forms as they become illuminated for an evening of magic.

If you prefer to hit the gardens a bit earlier to tour the many outdoor and indoor gardens, during October children can check out some fall fun at the Little Monsters Courtyard.

For more info:
<http://espacepurlavie.ca>

Montreal Burlesque Festival

If you're seeking a more adult form of entertainment, turn the sizzle up on your October with Montreal's 7th annual Burlesque Festival.

Showcasing internationally renowned burlesque dancers, these cabaret gals are all about sequins and feathers and bringing old world glamour back to Montreal stages! Running



from October 15-18 at various show venues in Montreal.

For more info:
www.montrealburlesquefestival.ca

National Education Fair

If you are a young person who is looking to find a special post-secondary institution, study abroad or have already checked off the previous two and are looking for a job in the south or across Canada, Place Bonaventure is featuring a three-in-one event by simultaneously offering three major events from October 15-15. The 2015 editions of the National Education Fair, the Study and Stay Abroad Fair and the National Job Fair will be offered all together this year for those looking to plan out something grand for their futures.

For more info: www.ineo.ca

La Braderie de mode québécoise

For the fashionista looking for some fabulous new finds, the fall event to check out for local designers has always been the Braderie de mode québécoise or the Big Fashion Sale by Quebec Designers.

Featuring fine apparel and accessories from the best in the province, this event takes place at Marche Bonsecours October 22-25 with special dates in Gatineau and Quebec City.

Featuring gorgeous goods from hundreds of designers, this mega-sale features clothing for the whole family, including a wide selection of plus-sized designs.

For more info: braderiedemodequebecoise.com

Arab Festival

A cultural gateway into the magic and beauty of the Arab world, Montreal's Arab Festival is a celebration of song, dance, cinema, visual arts and whirling dervishes.

A chance to explore exotic cultures and their flavours from the comfort of Montreal, this event runs from October 31-November 14.

For more info: <http://festivalarabe.com>



destinationcentreville.com

La Grande Dégustation

For those looking for only the most sophisticated and distinguished bottles of booze for their home/office/fall-out shelter/holiday party or under the tree, La Grande Dégustation is just about the best event in Quebec each year to try and buy some of the world's finest hooch.

Running from November 6-7, this wine, beer and spirit show ain't just about hawkin' what is hot as you can purchase tickets in exchange for small samples of these beverages so you can get acquainted with what you like.

This year there's a special focus on Spain and a special on bubbly products.

For more info: www.lagrandedegustation.com

Gem and Mineral Show

Ideal for the person into designing and making jewelry for friends and family or the person into gems, minerals and rocks of all kinds, the 56th annual Gem and Mineral Show attracts over 100 out-of-province dealers to sell and showcase their goods.

If you are on the market for semi-precious gems, jewelry, sculptures, pearls, beads, fossils, tools and minerals, this is the event to find unique gifts for the upcoming holiday season or just learn more about these fine natural goods. Runs from November 6-8.

For more info: www.montreal-gemmineralclub.ca/

Salon National des animaux de compagnie

At Place Bonaventure November 7-8, for those who love their pets as though they were their own flesh and blood or those looking to find a new pet companion, the Salon National des Animaux de Compagnie (SNAC) is a perfect starting point.

Featuring competitions and demonstrations with cats, dogs, rodents, rabbits, birds, reptiles and other domestic animals, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet breeders, veterinarians, as well as experts on animal behaviour and vendors of pet supplies.

For more info: www.snac.ca/

Santa Claus Parade

If you happen to be in Montreal with the family on Saturday, November 21, take them to welcome Santa Claus' arrival to Montreal for the Christmas season. Kicking it off in style, the Santa Claus Parade is a time-honoured tradition in the city that brings out families in droves to sip hot chocolate, dance and cheer as Jolly Old St. Nick arrives on his reindeer-drawn sleigh.

For more info: www.destinationcentreville.com/en/santa-claus-parade

Nutcracker Market

If you are looking for a unique holiday shopping experience in an exquisitely decorated venue, Montreal's

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Nutcracker Market is all about celebrating holiday magic while creating a magical shopping experience.

Featuring delectable gourmet delights, exclusive jewelry, eye-dropping holiday décor (that nobody else has), incredible fashions, toys and gifts, the Nutcracker Market is the ultimate place to shop with fellow Christmas lovers, get very special presents and buy for your own home what nobody else has. Runs from November 26 to December 6.

For more info:
www.marchecassenoisette.com

Weekend au Masculin

The Weekend au Masculin is at Place Bonaventure November 27-29 and is all about featuring presenters, companies, vendors and well-known media personalities that men are into.

Focusing on men's fashion, automobiles, sports and games, health, 7747electronics, food and spirits, this three-day event is a great opportunity for guys to get some "me" time or for the ladies to shop for the fellas on their Christmas lists.

For more info:
<http://weekendaumasculin.com>

Montreal Jubilation Gospel Choir

If you need something special to get you into the holiday spirit and want



Mélodie Farkas Dayle

to enjoy some spectacularly melodic joyful noises, be sure to check out the Montreal Jubilation Gospel

Choir at Place des Arts for their annual Christmas concert. Come Sunday, December 6, songs of praise, worship and holiday tidings are sung out loud and proud by the city's most renowned gospel choir. An exhilarating experience for gospel lovers, this event happens for one night only at Place des Arts.

For more info:
<http://placedesarts.com/shows/15416/the-montreal-jubilation-gospel-choir.en.html>

Salon des métiers d'art du Québec

If you are searching for unique, artisanal products for your loved ones, look no further than the Salon des métiers d'art du Québec! Running from December 11-20, some of the best artisanal product makers from across Quebec, Canada and beyond bring their wares to Place Bonaventure so that shoppers can buy some of the best handmade goods on the market. Fur products, wood carvings, stained glass, wool creations, hand-woven fabrics, and artisanal chocolates and alcohol, this is where you'll find quality handmade goods in all of their glory.

For more info:
www.metiersdart.ca/fr/salon-metiers-art-montreal

International Auto Show

If your New Year's goal is to purchase a new vehicle, there's no better place to do your research and step into the driver's seat of just about any model of car or truck than the Montreal International Auto Show at Palais des Congrès January 15-24.

Featuring floor after floor of vehicular joy, this is where every big name in the auto industry showcases everything from the sleekest and sexiest sports cars to the latest technology when it comes to heavy-body trucks and SUVs.

This year's event will feature over 40 modified cars, test drives plus a childcare centre for children 3-10 so that their parents can find a new family car.

For more info: www.salonautomontreal.com/en/



photos: Miguel Legault

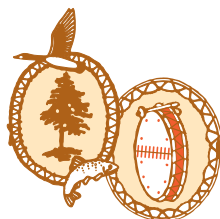


Igloofest

Come January the post-holiday blahs are in full swing as the deep cold sets in and people start to feel a little cagey indoors. This was why the folks behind the summer-long dance party, Piknic Electronik, put together a nocturnal winter version of the dance party spectacular known as Igloofest.

Featuring some of the hottest DJs from around the world, this event runs on weekends (January 16-February 8) and is guaranteed to get rid of your winter blues. Offering electronic music, spectacular light shows and a whole series of snow and ice sculptures that fit the winter paradise theme, this is the best time ever to don your best outdoor winter gear and hit the outdoor dance floor with thousands.

For more info:
www.igloofest.ca/



Federal Election and Voting Information

Voters in the Cree Nation may face significant barriers to voting in this federal election. New legislation that was passed by the federal government in 2014 (The Fair Elections Act) will make it more difficult for some First Nation citizens and residents of Eeyou Istchee to prove their identity when trying to vote on Election Day – Monday, October 19, 2015.

If you are unsure of the new laws there are solutions. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is working in collaboration with Elections Canada to remove some of these new barriers for First Nation voters by providing information and developing tools to assist those who want to participate in the upcoming federal election.

The AFN has developed a number of materials designed to help and ensure First Nation voters have the information they need prior to this federal election. All this information can be found at www.afn.ca.

All of this information is intended to be completely non-partisan and respects the right of each First Nation's citizen to decide whether they want to participate in this federal election and who they want to vote for.

Voter Registration – online or by mail

- Registering ahead of time makes it easier and faster when you go to vote. You can verify if you are registered to vote at www.elections.ca or by dialing 1-866-209-6483.
- If you are not registered, but want to vote on Monday, October 19;
 - You can register online with a driver's license or update your information at www.elections.ca.
 - You can register by calling Elections Canada at 1-866-209-6483.
 - You can register at the Polling Station when you go to vote with proper ID.

ID Requirements

- Any government issued ID card with your photo, name and current home address (Driver's License or Provincial/Territorial ID card); OR
- Two pieces of ID. **Both** pieces must have your name, and **one** must also have your current home address.
 - Examples of ID with both your name and home address include: a bank statement, utility bill or vehicle ownership.
 - Note that there is no address on most status cards, health cards, birth certificates, or passports.

Letter of Confirmation of Residence

- The "Letter of Confirmation" of residence is the best option for First Nation voters who may not have the necessary ID to vote (e.g., a driver's license). You can use this Letter of Confirmation of Residence as your proof of address along with a second piece of ID (like a Status card) to register and vote in a federal election. If you live on reserve, you can use a photocopy of the letter on the following page with a Band letterhead and ask the Band Administrator or designated Band authority to complete and sign it prior to voting day.

Advance Polls

October 9 to 12 in Mistissini, Eastmain, Waskaganish, Chisasibi, and Radisson.

Voting allows you to choose who will best represent you, your community and Nation for the next four years. This election and the changes imposed by the Fair Elections Act do make it harder and this is why we must work harder to ensure the Cree voice and vote is heard.

Band Letterhead Here

Letter of Confirmation of Residence

I confirm that the person named below:

(Voter's first name and last name)

Resides at: (insert full name and address of First Nation/Band office below OR check box for same information listed on letterhead ☐)

Band administrator or designated Band authority's full name, title, address and phone number:

Full name: _____ Title: _____

Address: (insert address below OR check box for same address on letterhead ☐)

Phone number: _____

Signature of Band administrator or
designated band authority

Date

This letter of confirmation of residence, along with another piece of ID with your name on it (such as your Status card), is sufficient to vote.

You can also go to nationnews.ca to download a copy of this page.

Fête des neiges de Montréal

Of course, if you are looking for a more kids-oriented outdoor party, the Fête des neiges de Montréal always has a lot to offer to the whole family. Running from January 16-February 7 on weekends, this fest is all about getting outdoors with your family and friends to enjoy some snowy fun. Featuring Ziplines, tube sliding, sled dog tours, skating, shows and music, this event is held in Montreal's Parc Jean-Drapeau and offers loads of fun for everyone.

For more info: www.parcjean-drapeau.com/en/fete-des-neiges-de-montreal-2016/

Salon de l'Amour et de la Séduction

If your life at home needs a little spicing up come the new year or you're looking for something special and adult to celebrate St. Valentine's Day with your partner, Montreal's 22nd Annual Salon de l'Amour et de la Séduction might be worth a visit. Running January 15-17, this is Quebec's largest sex and romance consumer show and is pretty much a large-scale emporium of lingerie of all kinds as well as adult products and lectures on healthy relationships and how to improve yours! This event goes down at Place Bonaventure and is a surefire way to add some sizzle to your life!

For more info: montreal.amouretseduction.com

Boat and Water Sports Show

If come February you are already dreaming about fishing with the family and friends, the Montreal Boat and Water Sports Show is the ideal spot to peruse the newest and hottest boats that 2016 has to offer. Featuring more than 450 different boats, 275 exhibitors and approximately 27,000 visitors, this show takes place at Place Bonaventure February 4-7.

For more info:
www.salondubateau.com

Highlights Festival

Just when winter seems to be droning on forever, Montreal's Highlights Festival returns February 18-27 to bring life, light, celebration and fabulous fun festivities back to the city's indoor and outdoor stages. Featuring concert, dance and theatrical performances, fireworks, an outdoor playground complete with a Ferris wheel, ice luges and spots to roast weenies and marshmallows as well as an entire series of gastro-nomic celebrations with visiting chefs from around the world, this is the event to celebrate the cold in style.

Going down a various venues throughout the city, this is a mega event that definitely has something to appeal to each of the sense and beyond.

For more info:
www.montrealenlumiere.com

camo clothes, knives and solar panels. Running February 18-21, this is the event of the year to check out the latest technology in fish finders, check out top-of-the-line scopes, crossbows, rifles and hunting dogs. A celebration of goodies for the bush, be sure to be in town for this fantastic event!

For more info:
www.montrealcampingshow.ca

Motorcycle Show

Whether you are a motorcycle aficionado, an all-out biker or are just curious about what the latest technology is in ATVs, Montreal's Motorcycle Show showcases the best of the best when it comes to fun on two, three and four wheels! Whether you want try out the latest from big hog makers like Harley Davidson, Triumph or Indian, see what is new in the world of Arctic Cat or Polaris or check out the latest add-ons for any of these kinds of rides, this event features the best



Hunting, Fishing and Outfitting Show

For those looking to invest in the latest gear for hunting, fishing and outdoor living, Montreal's Hunting, Fishing and Outfitting Show showcases the best firearms, fishing gear,

and the latest and has lots of gear to go with it. It's going down February 26-28 at Palais de Congrès.

For more info:
www.montrealmotorcycleshow.ca

Expo Manger Santé et Vive Vert

Always a sign that spring is just around the corner, Montreal's Expo Manger Santé et Vive Vert show is all about showcasing the latest health food products, vitamins, health trends and environmentally friendly products. Running March 11-13 at Palais de Congrès, this is a great event to check out if you are looking to change your diet, find new products to accommodate a

food allergy, learn more about vitamins, spices and supplements and check other related products such as baby gear, organic products and clothing.

For more info:
<http://expomangersante.com>

St. Patrick's Day Parade

After a long winter inside, Montrealers of all walks of life and ethnicities love to congregate, don their green and orange and get out

to celebrate on the streets for Montreal's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Now in its 193rd edition, Montreal's parade brings the young and the old out for fun and celebrations on a special day where everybody can be Irish. Running along St. Catherine Street in Montreal's downtown core, this year's event takes place on March 20.

For more info:
www.montrealirishparade.com

Major Events and Festivals outside Montreal

Festival du cinéma international en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Northern cinema fans get their own event in Rouyn-Noranda October 31-November 5 with the Festival du cinéma international en Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Featuring local films, foreign films from over 30 countries, short films, animated films and all sorts of famous guests and experts, this mind-expanding beacon of culture attracts folks from all walks of life.

For more info:
www.festivalcinema.ca

La Symposium Gatineau en couleurs

If you are driving through southwest Quebec come November and are looking to catch some seasonal colours and local culture, the Symposium Gatineau en couleurs is an event that brings out 70 local artist and sculptors from Quebec and Ontario to display their works. Inspiring, invigorating and educational, this event happens at the Maison du Citoyen in Gatineau November 6-8.

For more info:
symposiumgatineauencouleurs.ca

Festival du film de Sept-Îles

If you're looking for a film festival that has a northern flair, the Festival du film de Sept-Îles Ciné 7 is a non-profit event whose goal is to work with local film companies and their partners to present a 10-day celebration of local talent. Runs January 21-31.

For more info: www.cine7.ca/

Festi-Volant Grandes-Piles

If you want to see something bright and beautiful in the stark skies of January, then check out the Festi-Volant Grandes-Piles in the Mauricie region January 23-25. Featuring

check out and all sorts of kite-related events and workshops.

For more info:
www.festivoltant.com/

Quartiers d'hiver Festival

One of the hottest musical tickets in northern Quebec is the Quartiers d'hiver festival in Rouyn-Noranda as it attracts new musical talent from throughout the province for a very special three-day showcase January 29-31. Now in its second edition, this event is a great way to enjoy the Quebec music scene.

For more info:
www.quartiersdhiver.com



spectacular kites in all shapes and sizes, this kite festival also features ice fishing, paraskiing, snow scooters and mini-putt, a gigantic slide that spans the length of a village street plus a little Nordic village to

Winterlude

Whether you are in Quebec's south for business or pleasure, if you are looking for a family-friendly event that has been enjoyed by genera-

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Trapline M25*



Rupert Diversion Bays

Navigation Conditions on the Rupert



Rupert River



Jack Diamond, Waskaganish

Enter now at **www.hydloandfriends.com**

The contest runs from October 2, 2015, through December 3, 2015, and is open to members of the Cree nation living in one of the Native communities of Eeyou Istchee who are at least 18 years of age. Limit of one entry per person per day. The winner will be announced at 8:00 a.m. on December 9, 2015, during the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS.

tions of Canadians, the Ottawa-Gatineau region's Winterlude is a time-honoured classic.

Running January 29-February 15, this event features three fun-filled weekends centred around skating on the Rideau Canal, which every winter transforms into the world's largest skating rink. Also featuring beautiful ice sculptures at Ottawa's Crystal Garden and superb sliding for the whole family at the Snowflake Kingdom in Gatineau, this event is family fun at its finest.

For more info:

www.canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1416239267950/1416239373076



Quebec Winter Carnival

No doubt Quebec City's biggest and most recognized festival, the Winter Carnival takes place January 29-February 14 and packs a mighty punch of entertainment, winter sports, ice castles, culinary events, parties and family activities. For over 60 years, Bonhomme Carnival has played host to the world for this magnificent and celebrated event that has become one of the best parties of the year.

For more info: <http://carnaval.qc.ca/en/>

Saguenay en Neige

Come February Saguenay's Jonquiere borough transforms into a winter wonderland, gussied up by some of the most spectacular snow and ice sculptures that the province has to offer. Sponsored by Loto-Québec, the Saguenay en Neige festival brings out over 1000 sculptors from throughout the province for this breathtaking event. Running February 4-14, this event features all sorts of winter sports, fun and shenanigans to entertain the whole family.

For more info: www.saguenayenneige.com

Les Hivernades de Chicoutimi

Les Hivernades de Chicoutimi is all about enjoying the spoils of winter as a family! Set for February 28-March 8, this Chicoutimi party features traditional activities,

dancing and music, snowmobile and ATV activities, an outdoor amusement area for kids that has inflatable games, skating, dogsledding and horseback riding.

For more info: <http://leshivernades.com>

La Fête d'hiver

No doubt Abitibi's biggest winter family event is La Fête d'hiver de Rouyn-Noranda February 20-22 offering all kinds of outdoor events that are guaranteed to get your blood pumping. Featuring dog sledding, tubing, snow sculptures, a boot hockey tournament, foot races, live entertainment and lots of indoor and outdoor activities, don't miss this major northern fun fest!

For more info: www.lafetedhiver.com/

Festival Folifrets Baie-James

No doubt one of the biggest events on the Chibougamau winter social calendar, the Festival Folifrets Baie-James has become a hot tourist draw to the region when it comes to winter sports and celebrations. Running February 25-March 6, there are loads of winter activities to be enjoyed.

For more info: www.festivalfolifrets.com

Festival Art'Danse

If dance is your flavour and you so happen to be in Val-d'Or March 11-13, the Festival Art'Danse de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue features all kinds of dance performances, workshops and contests. All of the events are put on by dance professionals and there are gala events to strut your stuff.

For more info: www.artdanse.ca

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Whabouchi mining project a go

Nemaska Lithium Inc. receives federal and provincial approval for Nemaska mine

by Joshua Grant

After permit applications, relationship building, environmental assessments and research dating back to 2009, Nemaska Lithium Inc. (NMX) is just about ready to break ground on its Whabouchi Mining Project, a planned open surface mine 30 kilometres outside Nemaska.

The mine will extract 3000 tonnes of the mineral spodumene per day. It will then be shipped to a future processing plant in southern Quebec, converted into lithium hydroxide and marketed to lithium battery producers to power things like smartphones, tablets and electric vehicles.

"We have our main permits now," said the company's Director of Environment and Social Responsibility, Simon Thibault. "We

still need to secure the permits necessary to start the construction process, which we expect to begin in fall 2016."

In July, Nemaska Lithium received a certificate of authorization from the Canadian government, meaning the government believes the proposed mine poses "no significant environmental threat." In September, the Quebec government followed suit, marking two milestones towards the realization of the NMX project.

The mine still has to meet a number of conditions, including transparency and cooperation with Nemaska, Eeyou Istchee and the rest of the James Bay region, as well as a commitment to monitor, limit and mitigate the impact the

project has on the surrounding environment.

Thibault told the Nation that NMX has been working closely with the community of Nemaska and members of its band council as well as the Cree Nation Government, Cree School Board and Cree Human Resource Department.

He noted that present and past Nemaska chiefs – Matthew Wapachee, Josie Jimiken and current Chief Thomas Jolly – have all been instrumental in getting the project moving.

Thibault said that the project's proximity to the local community and the James Bay highway set it apart from other similar endeavours in northern Quebec.



Jack R. Blacksmith, Cree Mineral Exploration Board President, Andy Baribeau, Director of Commerce and Industry, Cree Nation Government, Natacha Leclerc, lawyer for Cain Lamarre Casgrain Wells, François Dandonneau, Gowlings associate, Robert Kitchen, Cree Nation of Nemaska Economic Development Officer, Josie Jimiken, former chief of the Cree Nation of Nemaska, Matthew Coon-Come, Cree Nation Grand Chief, Matthew Wapachee, former chief of the Cree Nation of Nemaska, James Wapachee, expert trapper, Guy Bourassa, Nemaska Lithium president and general director, Michel Baril, Nemaska Lithium administration council president, Gary Pearce, Nemaska Lithium engineer, Bertie Wapachee, Chinuchi agreement negotiator, Steve Nadeau, Nemaska Lithium Chief Financial Officer

"There's the obvious economic advantages, offering employment opportunities and investing in the community, but there's also the benefit of the site's location," he said. "The big advantage of our project is that it's located relatively close to the communities. Most of the time people have to fly in and fly out to and from remote locations for this type of work. Here, our Cree employees will be able to go home to their families every night."

All told, Nemaska Lithium estimates that the Whabouchi project will create 575 jobs over a projected mine life of 26 years; 375 employees will be required for the construction phase of 19 months, 185 will be involved in 26-year operational phase and 15 will be needed to help shut down the mine and mitigate its environmental impact.

Based on the Chinuchi agreement, a partnership between NMX, the Cree Nation of Nemaska, the Governing Council

of the Cree of Eeyou Istchee and the Cree Nation Government, members of the Cree Nation, beginning with residents of Nemeska, will have priority when it comes time to train and hire mine employees. The James Bay Cree also have priority for investment opportunities as the project now enters a financing stage.

"We will be starting drilling and blasting training and environmental monitoring training next summer," Thibault told the Nation. "We want the Cree of Nemaska to be involved every step of the way to increase transparency."

While the construction phase offers the bulk of NMX's employment opportunities, the operational stage will employ people for drilling and blasting, trucking, operating heavy machinery, processing materials, on-site maintenance, site security and transporting workers. Thibault stressed that Nemaska Lithium is committed to working with the Cree Nation to limit the mine's impact on the environment.

"We will be training members of the band council to monitor things like water quality, sediment and impact on fisheries," Thibault said. "Our monitoring program is really comprehensive and the residual impact [of the mine] will be as low as possible."

The monitoring program consists of an ongoing assessment of four potential areas of impact as the mining project unfolds: the integrity and physical stability of structures, the physical environment (weather, climate, air quality and emissions, groundwater and noise level), the biological environment (impact on land, plants and animals) and the social environment, looking at the use of land and resources, economic impact, community well being and possible effects on regional transportation.

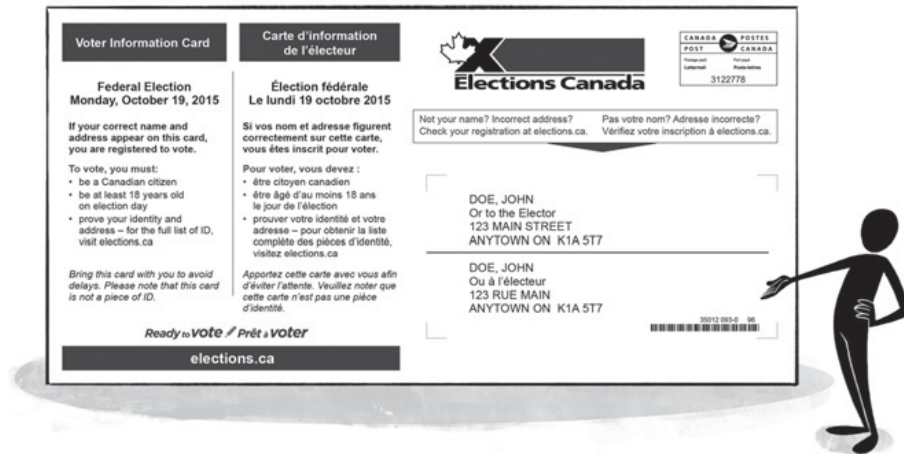
NMX plans to implement a water-management system and a water-treatment unit and will be developing plans for emergency responses as well as rehabilitation and restoration. Already, they've modified the project location to have the mine as far away as possible from the infrastructure and community resources of Nemaska.

Thibault and Human Resources Manager Bruno Ouellet recently presented the project to the community of Nemaska. As part of the conditions of the provincial certificate of authorization they will be available for public consultation on the mining project and its impact on the community through October. They are seeking someone within the community to take on the role of Community Liaison Officer.



Luc Blanchette Mining Minister, Guy Bourassa, President and General Director of Nemaska Lithium, Pierre Arcand, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and le Plan Nord, Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come, Greg Jolly, Deputy Chief of the Nemeska Cree Nation, Steve Gamache, Mayor of Chapais

If you got this card, you're ready to vote!



Federal election day is October 19.

Did your voter information card arrive in the mail? It tells you that you're registered to vote, and explains when and where you can vote.

If you didn't receive one, or if it has the wrong name or address, **check, update or complete your registration at elections.ca.** Or call **1-800-463-6868** (TTY **1-800-361-8935**).

Elections Canada has all the information you need to be ready to vote.

**Ready 
to vote**

October 19, 2015



McGill University's annual powwow shares traditions

written by Irkar Beljaars photos by Al Harrington



The 14th annual McGill Powwow took place on the university's lower field September 18 with a full day of traditional dancing and drumming. The event has always been a great way for McGill students to browse artisan vendors, learn about student groups, and connect with Indigenous organizations. There was something for everyone including intertribal dancing, Inuit throat singing, Métis jigging, hoop dancing and tipi teachings.

Hosted by the First Peoples' House of McGill, coordinator Paige Isaac thought the powwow was a great success. "We had beautiful weather – probably the best yet. Great feedback from our many guests and visitors who think the powwow keeps getting bigger and better."

For the past 14 years, the powwow has been teaching the McGill community about Native traditions. "Ray Deer and Lance Delisle did a great job at teaching everyone about powwow protocol and the different dances," explained Isaac. "There was diversity in

the programming allowing for many cultural exchanges."

Besides the powwow dancers and drummers, there was a blanket dance for a young Mi'gmaq boy who is dealing with the recurrence of Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare bone and soft tissue cancer. "It warms the heart to witness acts of kindness like this," said Isaac.

Marci-Nakuset Shapiro, the executive director of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal and co-chair of the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network, stated, "The McGill powwow is an incredible event that continues to impress, year after year. The coordinators are able to balance the event by highlighting First Nations, Inuit and Métis talent, as well as programming directed to the youth. It has a great reputation, because of its positive energy and enthusiasm. The urban Aboriginal community in Montreal is lucky to have this annual event."

Judging by the attendance at this year's powwow it succeeded in its goal as an educational tool at McGill University.



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"STANDING TOGETHER FOR NEW HORIZONS"

The Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association had this past month its 8th General Assembly at the Washaw Sibi's Cultural Camp. The outcome was a resounding success heralding in a change of leadership.

Linda L Shecapio
New President

NEW EXECUTIVES:

Linda L Shecapio	<i>New President</i>
Senera Gilpin	<i>New Youth Representative</i>
Rita Masty	<i>Vice President</i>
Priscilla Bosum	<i>New Secretary Treasurer</i>
Irene House	<i>Elder</i>

Special thanks to Virginia Wabano for her persistent dedication! Additional thanks go to former executive committee members that led the CWEIA to where it is today.

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE



VCC (2015) Inc., a construction company, with a mission to execute construction projects in Northern Quebec as well as other regions in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, is seeking a candidate for the following position :

Executive Vice-President

Location of work : Val d'Or (Administrative office)
Work Schedule: Full time

Status of employment : Permanent
Salary : to be discussed (upon qualifications)

Brief description :

Responsible for the planning, strategies and implementation of business development, in alignment with the global mission and vision of the company.

Detailed description:

- Carries out the necessary representation required to obtain contracts in favor of the company.
- Ensures the President is kept informed on the activities of the company.
- Ensures all the decisions from the Board of Directors are carried out by the management committee and employees.

- Builds a network of contacts to favor business opportunities. Assesses these opportunities and informs the President on the results of the assessments.
- Work directly with Management to identify opportunities to increase revenues and to reduce costs. Ensures that the decisions that are made remain within the scope of the vision of the company
- Participates at all of the Board of Directors' meetings
- Submits reports to the Board of Directors on the results, the difficulties, and challenges encountered by the company.

Requirements

- A University Diploma in Administration or a related field or an acceptable combination of training and experience will be considered.
- A minimum of fifteen (15) years of experience in the management of multidisciplinary teams in the construction field.
- Bilingual (English-French) (Cree is an asset).
- Availability for frequent travelling to construction work sites or to meet clients or eventual businesspartners.

Closing Date : October 31, 2015

If you are interested, please forward your curriculum vitae to the attention of the HR Director at:
julie.lafontaine@vccinc.ca Or by fax at: 819-824-4827

Walking for hope

Wemindji unites against suicide

by Jesse Staniforth

A lot of youth are dealing with drugs and alcohol,” says Wemindji Community Health Worker Colleen Atsynia. “Most of the cases I get are related to drugs and alcohol, with attempting suicide.”

That alone is enough of an explanation for why Atsynia and her colleague Norma Jean Saganash helped organize events for World Suicide Prevention week in mid-September. The events began with a suicide-prevention walk through the community, leaving the Youth Centre and leading to the Cultural Camp, where there was drumming and a candlelight vigil in memory of those lost to suicide in Wemindji, and across Eeyou Istchee and the North. The walk drew 120 people, or roughly 10% of the entire community.

Atsynia said that two young people took their lives between 2010 and 2014. While this number is not as bad as in some of the Mushkegowuk communities on the west coast of James Bay, it does not account for the many young people who make suicide attempts.

For that reason, the week also featured two evenings of speakers. Chisasibi’s Roger Orr spoke about his battles with addiction that ended in his 15 years of sobriety, and underlined the connection between addiction and the kind of depression that leaves people feeling so hopeless that they consider suicide. On a separate night, popular Innu singer David Hart spoke about the devastation of suicide on the families, recalling the experiences of losing his sister and his nephew to suicide.

The week wasn’t solely the product of Atsynia and Saganash’s work, however. They worked in partnership with a wide array of entities from across the community.

“The band, the police department, fire department, Justice Building, the Wellness Centre, the Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee, the school nurse,” Atsynia listed. “But it was mostly people who work with the youth – the youth department and youth centre.”

The important thing was to get out the information that young people need to hear about suicide: that there is help available, and there is also hope. Suicidal thoughts are not permanent and can be cured.

“We wanted to get the word to so that people to know where to go and who to talk to and for family members to know the signs and the risk factors,” Atsynia said. The major risk factors, she notes, are people who

become silent and withdrawn, people who begin to give away their possessions, and people who began to talk about suicide.

Saganash encouraged families and friends not to ignore such talk, and to immediately speak with a medical or social professional if the talk seems serious. (Those suffering suicidal feelings or those whose friends or family members suggest they are feeling suicidal can call the Quebec National Crisis Line at 1-866-APPELLE (277-3553). It is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.)

Saganash said there is no shame in talking about painful feelings. “You need to get it out. You cannot keep it in.”

But even at the end of the successful week, Saganash and Atsynia continued planning to bring the struggle against suicide to students. Already this year they visited schools in March to talk about the issue, and they plan to return soon.

“We need to keep it going,” Atsynia said. “We did our first [program] in March, and we went into the classroom, starting in Grade 5. We want to do it at least twice a year, going into the schools and talking about it. It’s a bit of a challenge, but that’s why we keep repeating ourselves.”

The continued spectre of bullying is an issue, she added. “We try to explain how it brings down a person’s self-esteem when a person is being bullied, and it can lead to suicidal thoughts.”

Regardless of the challenge, the week left them convinced that they have the community’s support behind them. “People are committed to improving the problem,” said Atsynia. “It was a good turnout.”

Request of Name Change Notice

Please take notice that Annie Rupert, residing at Cluster A3-11 P.O.Box 201, Chisasibi, QC in her quality of mother, is requesting from the Directeur de l’Etat Civil to change the name of: Joyce Ann Clara Jonah-Rupert for the one of: Joyce Ann Clara Rupert.

This notice has been signed in Chisasibi on July 24, 2015 by Anne Rupert.



The Cree connection on Mars

by Xavier Kataquapit

You might have seen news pieces recently about a small bit of land on Mars that has been named for Winnipeg. NASA is currently exploring Mars with the Curiosity rover and for some reason the officials in control of this project decided that the small piece of land that is being explored in detail should be called Winnipeg.

It is believed that the exploration of Winnipeg on Mars could end up telling us if there was or even is life on the planet in some form. Although nobody knows for sure why NASA chose the name Winnipeg, it is believed that it has something to do with news articles a few years ago that reported that Winnipeg was experiencing a deep freeze and the temperature for a while was colder than on Mars.

The Curiosity rover is actually studying the rocks and environment on Winnipeg, Mars, in a place called the Murray Formation to establish how they were formed and what they are made of. Although NASA is not saying, they are trying to figure out if there are precious metals that could be mined. My guess is that there must be a lot of interest in this exploration for resource-based stakes.

What the NASA people probably didn't know is that Winnipeg is originally a Cree word that means muddy body of water. Before I ever heard of Winnipeg, Manitoba, I only identified the term (as we pronounce it in Cree, Weenaybek) in reference to the great James Bay. As a matter of fact everyone I knew up the James Bay coast referred to the bay as Weenaybek. Later, when I moved further along as a child in my education I was surprised to find out that there was actually a Canadian city named Winnipeg.

Our Cree Elders have in the past referred to the bay as Weenaybek and

they still do today. Everyone on the James Bay coast refers to James Bay as Weenaybek rather than its English name. As a matter of fact one of the returning Cree boys from Attawapiskat who was dragged off to World War I in 1917 was deposited in Winnipeg on his return to Canada. When asked where he wanted to be returned to on arriving back he replied that he wanted to go to Weenaybek so military officials transported him by train to Winnipeg, Manitoba. It took him some months to figure out how to get back to what he knew as Weenaybek.

Many cities, towns, lakes, rivers and places in Canada carry original Native names. Obviously, this has to do with the fact that we were the first people on this land mass and we already had place names from coast to coast. We had settlements, hunting and gathering lands and we travelled the lakes and rivers as our highways. It is fitting that our pres-

ence is still very much felt across Canada as we were here in the beginning and we still live, hunt, fish and gather on our traditional lands right across this country.

The best example of Aboriginal names is in the name of our capital city – Ottawa, named for a group of Aboriginal people who were traders. The city is also located in the province of Ontario, an Aboriginal word that refers to lakes. The name of our country Canada is also an Aboriginal word from the Iroquoian language meaning “village.”

I find it amusing that a little part of Mars has been named for the Cree word Weenaybek or Winnipeg, which means of course muddy water. Perhaps there is something to this after all. Maybe, just maybe, NASA's Curiosity rover exploration will lead to the discovery of water. At the very least we as First Nation people can be proud of the fact that we have a connection to Mars. Maybe we always had that link.

Imagining Indigenous Futurisms
6th Annual Science Fiction Writing Contest
\$1,000 Award

Open to any emerging writer with an interest in exploring Indigenous issues through the medium of science fiction

Submit:
One paragraph personal statement w/ background and goals in sf
A previously unpublished sf writing sample up to 4,000 words

By November 1, 2015

To: Professor Grace L. Dillon (Anishinaabe)
dillong@pdx.edu

Judged by acclaimed Blackfeet sf, experimental, and horror writer Stephen Graham Jones
(www.demontheory.net)



A Resource Mine

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Congratulations to the production shaft teams

After five years of intensive work, the production shaft has reached a depth of 1,180 metres! Excavation, drilling, blasting and ground support have been performed.

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Thank you and congratulations for your great achievements!

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